

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Travis Elison, Area Management Biologist

Kuskokwim Area Office
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone: (907) 543-2433
Toll Free: 885-933-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

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**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 20
Kuskokwim River Subdistrict 1-A and Subdistrict 1-B to open for Commercial Salmon
Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Management Area.

Subdistrict 1-A

Subdistrict 1-A within District 1 will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2012. The following area of the Kuskokwim River mainstem between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream side of the mouth of the Tuluksak River with its confluence of the Kuskokwim River downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located upstream of Mishevik Slough is closed to commercial salmon fishing. Salmon may be taken only with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 50 fathoms in length.

Processing capacity for this commercial fishing period is limited. Fishermen are reminded to register with Kuskokwim Seafoods (543-5700) prior to fishing.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the Subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent Subdistrict. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from Bogus Creek downstream to line between Oscarville and Napaskiak.

Preliminary harvest information from the Monday, July 23, commercial period in Subdistrict 1-A was 3,859 chum; 135 sockeye; 324 coho; and 18 Chinook salmon from 41 permit holders. Salmon run assessment information indicates a harvestable surplus of chum salmon.

Subdistrict 1-B

The Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of the Johnson River to the lower boundary of District 1 defined as a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut will open to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 27, 2012.

The Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 downstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of Johnson River, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 27, 2012.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the Subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent Subdistrict. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 27, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from the upper end of Straight Slough downstream to the mouth, defined by a line from Apokak Slough to the southern-most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

Preliminary harvest information from the Tuesday, July 24, commercial period in Subdistrict 1-B was 2,893 chum; 52 sockeye; and 1,564 coho salmon from 132 permit holders. Salmon run assessment information indicates a harvestable surplus of chum salmon.

Fish processors have verbally agreed not to purchase Chinook salmon harvested during commercial openings. Any Chinook salmon caught must be retained for subsistence or personal use. Fish retained for subsistence or personal use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel ADF&G office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

Travis Elison 907-543-2433

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